

REMARKS

I. The Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 based on Kim et al. ("Kim"), U.S. Patent 6,438,119 in further view of Rezaiifar et. al., U.S. Patent No. 6,526,030 ("Rezaiifar"). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Initially, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's admission that Kim does not disclose "a shared control channel". To make up for this deficiency the Examiner now relies upon Rezaiifar. However, Rezaiifar does not disclose a shared control channel. Instead, Rezaiifar appears to disclose a shared data channel and a dedicated control channel.

More specifically, the excerpts from Rezaiifar mentioned by the Examiner relate to a "forward fundamental channel" that is used to "transmit voice, data and signaling messages". This channel can be shared by more than one "remote station". However, control signals are sent via a separate, dedicated "forward control channel", not via the fundamental channel. The forward control channel of Rezaiifar appears to operate similar to existing dedicated, downlink physical channels (DPCHs) referred to in the "Background of the Invention" section of the present specification.

Because Kim and Rezaiifar, separately or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the "shared control channels" of claims 1-14, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-14.

II. The Section 103 Rejections

Claims 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Rezaiifar and in further view of Lee et al. ("Lee"), U.S. Patent 6,621,873. Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Initially, Applicants note that Lee does not overcome the deficiencies of Kim and Rezaiifar discussed above with respect to claims 1-14. Therefore, for at least the reasons stated above, claims 11 and 12 are not rendered obvious by the combination of Kim, Rezaiifar and Lee.

Further, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's admission that Kim and Rezaiifar fail to disclose or suggest the puncturing of bits from [a] portion of the encoded signaling information that is separately decoded [such that the puncturing] is less than the puncturing of bits from remaining encoded signaling information, as recited in claim 11, and similarly recited in claim 12. The Examiner relies on Lee to overcome this deficiency.

However, the Applicants respectfully submit that Lee do not suggest the claimed puncturing features because it appears that Lee is directed at puncturing "tail symbols" that do not appear to be part of signaling information; rather, they are used for error checking (i.e., Parity checking).

In sum, neither Kim, Rezaiifar nor Lee discloses or suggests the puncturing of a portion of signaling information as recited in claims 11 and 12.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejections, and allowance of claims 11 and 12.

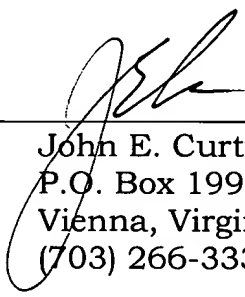
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3777 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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BY



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